

**Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee
DMC Subcommittee
January 14, 2016 Meeting
Office of Grants and Research, EOPSS
3:00pm – 5:00pm**

Meeting Minutes

Agenda

1. Approve Minutes
2. Work Plan Review
3. Data Collection Bill & Testimony
4. Discuss the MASTLE (police screening tool)
5. Police Training
6. School Discipline Disparities– what next?
7. JDAI Update
8. Leadership Forum Update

Handouts: Minutes, Work Plan, Data Bill, Data Bill Testimony, MASTLE, School Discipline Article, School Discipline Data

JJAC and Subcommittee Member Attendance: Mark Booher (Chair), Soledad Valenciano,

EOPSS Staff: Andrew Polk

The subcommittee **approved minutes** of the previous meeting.

Andrew Polk updated the subcommittee on the status of DMC-related priorities and activities in **the JJAC Work Plan**. Mr. Polk will be meeting with the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Police Training Committee (MPTC) to provide input on the development of their police training curriculum and the possibility of finding issues upon which to collaborate. Mr. Polk will determine whether the Effective Police Interactions with Youth Training can move forward with trainers that will make it worthwhile based on the group of officers that attended the training of trainers. Mr. Polk conducted a focus group at Roca, Inc. and will seek to conduct 2 – 4 focus groups a year at a variety of youth-serving organizations.

Dr. Mark Booher led a **discussion of school discipline** data retrieved from the Department of Early and Secondary Education (DESE) web site and Relative Rate Indices (RRIs) calculated from the data. While suspensions have declined by approximately 20% across the Commonwealth, there are still significant disparities between the suspension rates of whites and Black and Latino youth. Dr. Booher presented information about some of the schools with the highest discipline rates. One question to be looked into is whether DESE or any other agency can provide data on school-based arrests.

Mr. Polk reported that the **Diversion Study** was recently presented to the Leadership Forum by JJAC Chair Bob Gittens.

The continuing **data problems** at the Executive Office of the Trial Court (EOTC) may result in the inability to complete a DMC Assessment Study in the near future which may lead to a finding, by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), of non-compliance with the DMC core requirement of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP). Mr. Polk mentioned that the JJAC recently submitted testimony on the State Senate's **data collection bill**.

The subcommittee discussed the **police screening tool** – called MASTLE – that the Brookline Police Department is implementing for officers to use when deciding whether to arrest or divert youth during encounters. Youth who are diverted may be recommended to services based on needs that the tool will help identify.